

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS REVIEWS AND COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM  
AND BOOK NEWS

From Sarajevo to the First of August, 1914  
—The Diplomatic Prelude as Chronicled in the State Papers.

THE DIPLOMACY OF THE WAR OF 1914. By Mr. E. C. Stowell. Vol. I. The Beginnings of the War. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Mr. Stowell, who is assistant professor of international law at Columbia University, begins in the introduction an undertaking of the utmost importance to the student of the diplomatic phases of the world war, whose development, halted for a while by the first clash of arms, has since progressed space, in the accession of Turkey to the two central powers on the one hand, and that of Italy to the Allies on the other. In the Balkans this diplomatic history is still in the making. Its enormous American chapter, potentially the most important of them all, cannot yet be written. From Scandinavia has only just come a first protest against English interference with its neutral trade. Holland keeps its own counsel with admirable diplomatic skill. What is going on below the surface, what efforts are being made, what pressure is brought to bear in the neutral chancelleries of the world, what misrepresentations are being published for immediate public consumption and the influencing of public opinion, what is suppressed, all this, or at least part of it, we shall not know till later. Certain it is, however, that abundant material is rapidly accumulating for Professor Stowell's second volume.

The body of the present work is devoted to a study of all the state papers, White, Orange, Gray, Yellow, Red, Blue, British, German, Russian, French, Austrian, and Serbian, dealing with the period that elapsed between the assassination at Sarajevo and the

declarations of war, or, at least, to a study of those documents which the different governments issued in the struggle have seen fit to make public. They comprise reports of all that went on in the conferences between the diplomats, that they tell the full story of the diplomatic maneuvering which may well be doubted. That is not the way of diplomacy; it cannot be. Professor Stowell takes into consideration this possible element of suppression and misrepresentation, especially in the case of the German charge of the post facto manufacture of documents in the French Yellow Book, but he holds that in the case of England, at least, the basis and permanent structure of the British diplomacy are doubtless to be found in the papers laid before the Houses of Parliament and in the discussions and explanations given in Parliament. It is interesting to compare Professor Stowell's opinion on this point with that of an earlier historian of the diplomacy of the world war, Mr. P. P. Price, M. A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, who holds that there are in the obscurities of the negotiations as reported in the published documents several which Sir Edward Grey alone can elucidate. Mr. Price's book, which was issued in January of this year by the Messrs. Scribner, will, as a matter of fact, be found exceedingly well worth the student's while in connection with his perusal of this first volume of Professor Stowell's history.

It is perhaps a matter of opinion to what extent a work dealing with the immediate causes of the war should extend to a consideration of the more remote ones, but it may seem to some that the thirty-nine introductory pages devoted to them here are not sufficient for their purpose. The less so as these remote causes have been increasingly lost sight of in the current discussions of the struggle. It is true that, to do them full justice, another volume of the size of the one we are dealing with, written, but a reference to Alsace-Lorraine without one to Louis XIV leaves the matter decidedly in the air. From the German point of view, at least, "We are not fighting Louis XIV." "We are fighting Louis XIV." said Moltke to Thiers; France might make reply to-day, with even more truth, "We are not fighting William I." It was Beaconsfield who, in pursuance of his country's policy of the time, thus threw the Dual Monarchy across Russia's path in the Balkans. He even included the Sanjak of Novi Bazar in the arrangement, but the Austrian statesmen restored it to Turkey for reasons of their own.

All this, however, by the way. Professor Stowell presents, almost entirely in direct quotation or in paraphrases from the official documents, the negotia-

tions at Vienna, St. Petersburg, Berlin, London and Paris for the localization of the Serbian crisis and the preservation of the peace of Europe; and, without departing from his text, he succeeds in giving to his narrative a dramatic note, a living quality. This is no mere dry chronicle. In apportioning the responsibility he discards, of course, the untenable theory of the earliest days of the struggle, that it rests entirely upon the shoulders of one man, the German Emperor. Germany, he holds, did not really wish for war, but by her conduct gave evidence that she intended to back up ally Austria-Hungary in the diplomatic triumph which would greatly have strengthened Teutonic influence in the Balkans. "She risked the peace of Europe for a vain reason after prestige." Upon Austria-Hungary he places the direct responsibility.

The conclusion of the book forms one of its best, its most significant chapters. Here the author places face to face the two conceptions of the state, of civilization, which are battling for supremacy. His appendices are copious and important. They include the Belgian neutrality treaties and the apocryphal will of Peter the Great, the treaties of alliance, various conventions, the declaration of the American delegation at the Hague Conference, the appeal to the universities of America by Rudolf Eucken and Ernst Haackel, Dr. Eliot's article on America and the war, Dr. Dernburg's answer thereto, extracts from papers by Professor Delbrück, etc. And there is a useful chronology. It is perhaps superfluous to add that this most important and serviceable American contribution to diplomatic history is well indexed.

## BELGIUM

A Notably Able Piece of Condensed Information.

BELGIUM. By R. C. K. Enor. Home University Library. 12mo. Pp. 256. Houghton Mifflin Co.

This is not a book hastily thrown together to meet a likely popular demand. On the contrary, it is the author's mastery of his subject and the thoroughness of his treatment of it, the volume ranks with the best of the admirable series to which it belongs. The admiration of Belgium's heroism, which he must share, has not led Mr. Enor to gloss over the shortcomings of a nation which has lagged behind the great powers of the world. He does not pretend to understand it. And where he fails to understand, where he submits symptoms without probing them deeply, he is often nearest to us. English by birth, taken to Australia when a boy by his father, a journalist left stranded by the new methods of journalism introduced during the closing decades of the last century, he follows in that father's footsteps in Sydney and carries out when still young his determination of returning to London, where he finds a footing as a writer of minor fiction and a newspaper man of the new order after an experience in Great Britain as a writer, as a journalist, as George Gissing's own. It permanently impairs his health, so, at the height of his modest success, he returns to Australia to end his brief remaining years in peaceful retirement.

The man's portrait of himself alone makes the book worth the thoughtful reader's while, but it has other claims to attention. It has the charm of aloofness, of a mind always dreamily apart from the day's work and experience; a suggestion of the compensations found along the line of least resistance, of life never practically, calculatingly realized. And, to us of a new world, at least, it has the interest of a comparison with the old. This man from Australia stands appalled at the degradation of the slums, but he submerges himself in the incredible survival there of so much that is good and noble and true. Of social England he knows but little—its hedged so high and it is so supremely comfortable within them with never a thought for the outsiders; but, writing before the war, he sees tendencies that give food for serious thought. Withal, his love for England, inborn, instinctive, nurtured by but little that she has done for him is the note on which he ends his pages. Whether *Wahrheit* or *Dichtung*, or both, this is a noteworthy piece of work.

## THE LADY AFT.

THE LADY AFT. By Richard Matthews Hallett. Illustrated by Sidney S. Chase. 12mo. Pp. 322. Boston: Small, Maynard, 1915.

The author of this tale of the sea, we are assured, has lived the life of which he tells. He has sailed under canvas and steam, he has taken his trick at the wheel, he has fished sail, he has rounded the two Capes, he has observed the life of the deep from the fool in the focale to the skipper in his lonely authority. But the most profitable voyage he has made, one thinks, has been under one Joseph Conrad. No better master could be found, and Mr. Hallett is a far from inept pupil. The story he tells is of a young New York clerk who suddenly revolts against the smug monotony of his daily life, and who, on the spur of the moment, ships on a bark bound he knows not whither. There is a plot, and in it are involved the captain's daughter, the steward, the cook, and a mystery, but it is in its pictures of the sailor-man's life and ways and traditions and superstitions that lies the real interest of the story. This is the book of a beginner, with a beginner's uncertainties of treatment, but Mr. Hallett evidently has done for him in the drawing of the story, and no doubt he will resign to spin



THE KING OF THE BELGIANS.

with the end of that period it ceased to have a history apart from that of Spain, of Austria, France and the Netherlands. It was reborn in 1830, since when its economic development has been hardly less remarkable than that of Germany itself, thanks largely to that supremely able ruler, Leopold II, whose Congo venture was the least of his services to the state. Mr. Enor pays but little attention to him or his two predecessors on the throne, yet makes the story complete.

Reference has just been made to his admirable treatment of the political struggles in Belgium during the late seventies and early eighties of the last century. No less authoritative is his review of the Flemish agitation which, shortly before the war, led its leaders to threaten to take up German, since that was one of the official tongues of the country under the so-called "three languages law." The chapter on Belgian art and literature, may be headed in conclusion, does full justice to the Flemings, and is not merely confined to an appreciation of the Walloons, whose leaders, curiously enough, bear the unmistakably Flemish names of Maeterlinck and Verhaeren. And the temperament of both—Maeterlinck's in its mysticism, Verhaeren's in both its early materialism and its later serene mood—is typically Flemish to the core.

thought and action provides the strongest contrast to the lack of harmonious purpose and co-ordinated effort which characterizes the United States.

## THANKFUL INHERITANCE.

THANKFUL INHERITANCE. By Joseph C. Lind. Illustrated by H. M. Brew. 12mo. Pp. 354. D. Appleton & Co.

Thankful's inheritance is an old house on Cape Cod, which she turns into a summer boarding house. This is the beginning of the plot of Mr. Lincoln's new story. Its complications arise from a mortgage and an attempt to oust the lady from her possession because a rich city man wishes to add it to his estate. There are also several love affairs, and there is even a ghost to be laid, the purpose of it all being, of course, the presentation of still another picture of New England life, character, philosophy, humor and dialect. Mr. Lincoln has won a large and faithful following, whose fidelity he rewards by giving it what it expects from him, though with increasingly perceptible effort. The refreshing originality of his earlier books has departed; the spontaneous humor, the genuine simplicity and the simplicity and sterling honesty of his folk are becoming labored, unattractively calculated for effect; in short, Mr. Lincoln is in danger of falling victim to a cliché. Still, he is one of the best guides we have for a trip down East and up along; we owe him a debt of gratitude for much delight given us in the past; we may well look to him for more of it in the future. No author can always be at his best.

## AN ENGLISH COPYRIGHT DECISION.

According to the London "Athenaeum," an English judge has recently decided that "Pearson's Weekly," infringing the copyright of "Bradshaw" when it copied for the purposes of a competition a list of names of stations from the index of the famous English railway guide. Damages of £50 were awarded. Commenting on this decision "The Athenaeum" says: "Bradshaw" as a literary work gains a new distinction, and we wish that, like other world-wide classics, it was available in a large-paper edition, with improved type."

## TWO SINNERS

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## NOTES AND NEWS

Current Talk of Things Present and to Come.

Doubleday, Page & Co. announce that the first edition of Gene Stratton-Porter's new novel, "Michael O'Halloran," will consist of 300,000 copies. The book will be issued on August 17.

"The Philistine." The July issue of "The Philistine," the late Elbert Hubbard's well-known monthly, is its "Valedictory Number." It has been decided to discontinue its publication.

Booth Tarkington's "The Turnout" is to be translated into Spanish and will first appear in that language as a

serial in a Spanish-American newspaper, "El Norte Americano." Mr. Tarkington's publishers, the Messrs. Harper, also announce that a Swedish translation of Dr. Henry van Dyke's "Story of the Other Wise Man" has recently been published in Stockholm.

Penelope's Return. Kate Douglas Wiggin's Penelope—the of the delightful English, Scotch and Irish visits—is to be with us again next month in "Penelope's Postscripts," among the contributors to a book on "The Coming Newspaper," edited by Professor Merle Thorpe, of the University of Kansas, and published today by Henry Holt & Co. The work is

described as a symposium of the latest developments in the methods, and ethics of newspaper making, news gathering and handling, advertising, circulation, administration and editorial direction.

More Sensationalism. The Century Company will issue early in the fall "Marie Tarnowska," by Anne Vivanti Chartres, being the confessions of the Russian woman who was the central figure of an unsavory murder case in Italy seven years ago, and who has just been discharged from prison.

Our Negro Problem. A study of the race problem in the United States from a South African point of view is announced by Longmans, Green & Co. It is entitled "Black and White in the Southern States," and is the work of Maurice S. Evans, the author of a book on "Black and White in Southeast Africa."

## REASONS

Why You Should Read Winston Churchill's New Novel



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## ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning next week, and thereafter until the end of August, The Tribune's Literary Department will be published on Friday instead of Saturday.

## The Ever-Present Peril from War Madness

The assassin's bullet and the explosive bomb are two death-dealing agencies that are making their presence felt in this country as an outcome of the European war.

In THE LITERARY DIGEST for July 17th there is given a comprehensive gist of public opinion from all quarters upon the attempted assassination of J. P. Morgan, the explosion of a bomb in the National Capitol, and the reported planting of others in the holds of ocean-going steamers. The editorial opinions of both pro-German and American newspapers are presented.

Another subject that will hold the interest of Americans, is the very complete explanation of our national finances, under the heading of

## Profit and Loss of a Year of War

which deals particularly with the \$35,000,000 deficit in the National Treasury.

Most men and women want to know all about a subject in which they are vitally interested. While they may believe their own opinion and view-point are correct, yet it is obvious that they can not know the exact truth unless they have the information from all sides. The "Digest" prints the news-facts on all sides of important events of the world without fear or favor. More than a million Americans buy and read it every week.

Among other features that will strongly commend the issue of July 17th to the attention of its readers are:

Nashville's Hour of Trial  
Alleged Disorganization in France and England

The Allies' Air Raid on Karlsruhe  
Aerial Mail Service

Recruiting by Poster in England  
The Pope and the Interviewers

The German "Sherlock Holmeses"  
A Letter to the Kaiser

Trusting the Honor of Criminals

Is the Rifle Doomed in War?

The Swing of the Pendulum in Roumania

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## The Literary Digest

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY (Publishers of the Famous New Standard Dictionary), NEW YORK

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